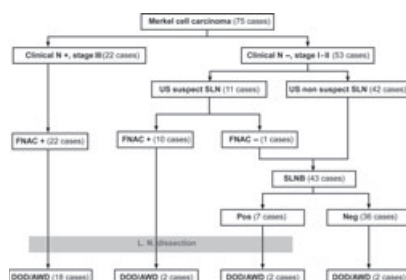
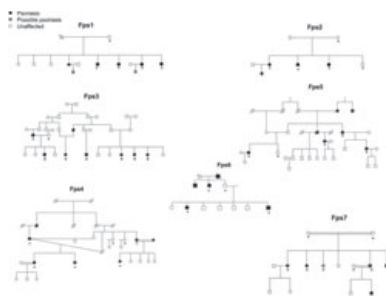


Cytology of sentinel lymph nodes for Merkel cell carcinoma



Ultrasonography (US) of lymph nodes (LNs) was performed in 75 patients with Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC) (22 with stage III tumours; 53 with stage I–II). In patients with US-suspected disease, US coupled with fine-needle aspiration cytology (FNAC) of the LN was performed. In all 22 patients with stage III tumours, US was indicative of tumour deposits and FNAC confirmed metastasis to LNs. Ultimately, of the 53 stage I–II MCC, 17 had positive LN involvement. In 10 cases (59%) metastases were detected by FNAC, and in seven cases, were detected by sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB). It is concluded that in a selected subset (~20%) of patients with MCC with clinically localized disease, the examination of regional nodes by US, followed by FNAC in the suspect LN, is a valid diagnostic alternative to SLNB histology. In positive patients, the morbidity of SLNB would be avoided, while in contrast, patients with FNAC negative for metastasis should proceed to SLNB. *Br J Dermatol* 2013; 168: 563–570

Genetics of psoriasis in a Tunisian population

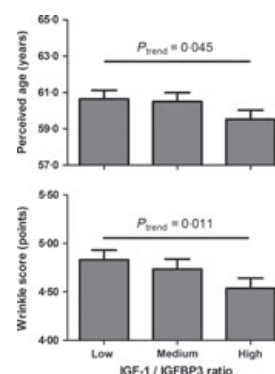


This study investigates the genetic basis of familial psoriasis in the Tunisian population. It provides evidence for genetic heterogeneity of psoriasis in this population. Significant evidence for linkage of psoriasis to chromosome 2p12 was seen in one family. The authors also identified several regions of tentative psoriasis linkage on chromosomes 2q, 4q, 6p,

11q, 12q, 9q and 13q. One family exhibiting suggestive evidence for linkage to 17q25 (*PSORS2*) was identified and all affected members were shown to harbour a p.Gly117Ser mutation in *CARD14* (caspase recruitment domain family, member 14), recently reported to lead to psoriasis in a large family from the U.S.A. *Br J Dermatol* 2013; 168: 583–587

Serum IGF-1 and facial ageing

In this study Noordam *et al.* assessed the association of serum insulin-like growth factor (IGF)-1 levels with perceived age and skin wrinkling in a random sample comprising 617 middle-aged subjects from the Leiden Longevity Study. A higher ratio of IGF-1 to IGF binding protein (IGFBP)-3 is associated with a lower perceived age, via its association with reduced skin wrinkling. Whether high IGF-1 levels actually delay the accumulation of skin wrinkling now needs investigating. *Br J Dermatol* 2013; 168: 533–538



Drug patch tests for SCAR

This is the largest reported multicentre study to assess the positivity of patch tests (PTs) for identifying the responsible drug in severe cutaneous adverse drug reaction (SCAR). All drugs administered in the 2 months prior to and the week following the onset of the SCAR were tested. Results emphasize the sensitivity of these tests, with 56.7% of positives in 134 cases. These included positive tests for 64% (46/72) of patients with drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS), 58% (26/45) of those with acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP) and 24% (4/17) of those with Stevens–Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal necrolysis (SJS/TEN), with only one relapse of AGEP. Barbaud *et al.* conclude that PTs are useful and safe for identifying agents inducing SCAR. *Br J Dermatol* 2013; 168: 555–562